



# DEVORA "DEV" DAVIS CITY COUNCILMEMBER

## District 6 Newsletter July 2017

Dear Neighbors,

It's been an incredible first 6 months serving you as the Councilmember for District 6. My team and I jumped right in at the beginning of January and have been working diligently ever since. Looking back over the last six months, we've accomplished a lot!

### Community Engagement

We started off working with neighbors on Booksin Avenue to halt the removal of mature trees by PG&E. Conversations with our city arborist, Public Works, and PG&E to reduce the scope of the project are ongoing.

In February, I hosted a community engagement meeting at San Jose City College. Over 230 residents came together to discuss our district priorities over the next few years! Following the meeting, we sent out a survey to neighbors through Nextdoor.com and received 516 responses. Respondents were asked to rank priorities for the District, public safety improvements, transportation-related and community enhancements; how to increase participation in neighborhood activities; and the most effective way to communicate with each other. Transportation-related issues were the top category in the survey results.

### Transportation

In response to transportation priorities, we have worked closely with our Department of Transportation on a Complete Streets project on Hedding Street (between Winchester Blvd. and Ruff Dr.). The project design has been modified in response to public comments to retain parking spaces and improve pedestrian safety. This project is scheduled for construction from late August to October.

Also related to transportation, we have won a victory in lowering the speed limits around three District 6 schools to 15 mph! The slower speed zones will be Willow Glen High School, Willow Glen Middle School, and Galarza/Hammer Elementary Schools. Regardless of the lower speed limits, please drive carefully around all school zones and watch for pedestrians. For more information on safe driving around schools follow these [tips](#).

With the help of active residents, we were successful in stopping the [oil trains](#) from moving through District 6 and San José. We weighed in on a critical vote of the San Luis Obispo Supervisors by sending a letter of opposition to them urging them to stop the trains. Here's a link to the [letter](#).

High Speed Rail (HSR) has been an ongoing issue and concern for many District 6 residents. After several public meetings with residents and High Speed Rail officials in 2015 and 2016, I was disappointed with the lack of clarity and communication from the HSR representatives with the community. To facilitate true input from our residents, Councilmember Raul Peralez and I sent a [letter](#) to HSR firmly requesting

increased engagement and simplification of technical jargon during the community process. We're looking forward to HSR response.

As a member of the Caltrain Board and a longtime rider, I'm very pleased with the recent approval of funds to electrify the line. This means we will have faster and more reliable trains to take the burden off our packed freeways. It's a win for our community! Click [here](#) to read the full story.

### **City Budget**

One of my biggest learning curves as your new councilmember was navigating my first budget season. Besides studying the 955-page Operating Budget, the 1109-page Capital Budget and the 287-page Fees and Charges report, I submitted budget documents to the Mayor's office to request one-time funding for projects.

We were successful in our requests for four different projects:

- 1) Two mobile radar feedback units for traffic calming
- 2) Industrial dish sanitizers and one-time maintenance/rehab of the boiler and water softener for the San José Animal Care Center
- 3) A major gateway beautification project on Bird Avenue from Minnesota Avenue all the way to the triangle split of Montgomery and Autumn to Santa Clara Street
- 4) Funding for the Hedding Street Complete Streets project to improve traffic signal timing

### **Beautify SJ**

My office is currently participating in alpha testing for a new My San José mobile app. This app will allow residents to submit service requests for abandoned vehicles, graffiti, illegal dumping, potholes, streetlight outages, and general requests. It is more robust than the San José Clean app and is expected to launch by the end of July. Stay tuned!

### **Economic Development**

Finally, I was very honored to welcome Google to San José and District 6 during my motion to the City Council to begin negotiations on the proposed Diridon Area project. Click [here](#) to view the [video](#). I look forward to working with our community and Google on a world-class project!

I wish you a very safe and enjoyable Independence Day. I hope to see you all at the [Rose, White, and Blue Parade](#) along The Alameda.

The District 6 staff and I are here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 408-535-4906 or [district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" at the beginning.